



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

JANUARY 1987

COLLECTIBLES FOR SPRING

Pieces strong enough to stand alone, yet mix and match successfully-- a sample of the season's collectibles. Designers find inspiration in pastoral landscapes, batiks, mosaics, and "Hollywood." Fabrics are pure and sophisticated in silk, cotton and linen.

REVIEWED:

COLLECTIBLES

EXHIBITS

DESIGNER FOCUS

PARIS

TOPS: Crisp white cotton/linen blouses-- with swirl or floral embroidery on the yoke and sleeves at REGINA PORTER. ANNE HALL incorporates an "antique rose print" in a fitted, button-down with peter pan collar in silk twill. Camp shirts abound in prints as well as solids as BRITISH KHAKI features "British East Africa Checks" and "Coffee Plantation Plaids."

Jackets are all lengths: ROZ GRECO presents a finger-tip, double-breasted linen blazer in black and ecru stripe for SAVANNAH. MARC JACOBS cuts his multicolor, mosaic jacket a bit higher and cinches it at the waist-- while NORBURY & OSUNA prefers a cropped bolero in a coral cotton.

THE DUSTER: The new topper...ELEANOR P. BRENNER features a silk/rayon herringbone with an open, pleat back in royal, sunflower, meadow green and white. EILEEN RUBINI designs her "Silverado" duster in a cotton/linen blend with a back-buttoned box pleat. REGINA PORTER fastens her silk tussah duster with a single abalone shell in hemp and black, while SPITALNICK shows something different in a collarless "Vanity Coat" with one-button closure in silk or cotton/linen blend.

BOTTOMS: This season's pantleg expands and whether Garbo or Hepburn-- the look is wide comfortable pants. EILEEN RUBINI presents a "Garbo pant" in a white, linen/cotton blend. While CARMELO POMODORO prefers a seamed "Hepburn pant" in an indigo silk. ESCADA BY MARGARETHA LEY crops it short and brings up the waist, calling it a "Palazzo pant" in midnight navy.

The walking short gets around this Spring...in nickel, olive, mud or pale lavender at GO SILK BY L'ZINGER. For a brighter option, PENDLETON shows it in cornflower blue madras or coral/aqua awning stripe for MISS SOPHISTICATES.

COLLECTIBLES (continued)

Skirts are long and full, or short and flirty...JENNIFER GEORGE presents a short pleated skirt in white matte jersey, above the knees and very kinky. JHANE BARNES prefers a 34" release pleat in ivory wool gabardine. Lots of flounces in CAROL HORN'S collection such as her tiered, knee-length skirt in beige and navy cotton batik.

LACE: Adds femininity to the season's collectibles...STANLEY BLACKER FOR WOMEN trims a cotton/ramie cardigan with ecru lace and a one-button closure, in pink, banana and blue bell. ANNE HALL designs a full, stitch down pleated skirt entirely in ivory lace.

FASHION EXHIBITS IN NEW YORK

THE BEST OF THE BEST DRESSED LIST

The Museum of the City of New York presents the "Best of the Best Dressed List", an exhibit conceived by curator, JoAnn Olian, and based on the Best-Dressed List. Through photography, video and modeling of the actual pieces, the works of Adolfo, Adrian, Balenciaga, Bolhagen, Chanel, Chaumont, Chloe, Dior, Griffe, Halston, James, Lanvin, Leiber, Mainbocher, Norell, Rhodes, Schiaparelli, Saint Laurent, Valentino and Vionnet are shown.

The exhibit draws us into a world of elegance seldom experienced in this age of throw away convenience. Two pieces are especially notable - Chanel's white organdy creation, trimmed with red, white and blue lace and embroidered with poppies; and Mainbocher's "Venus Pink" Grecian style silk chiffon. The Chanel gown was the last evening gown shown by the designer before she closed her salon in 1941. The Mainbocher, the first of many created for Mary Martin, was designed for the movie One Touch of Venus. (5th Ave. & 103rd, 534-1672. Until May 14, 1987.)

DANCE

A new exhibit has waltzed into the Costume Institute Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art - "Dance". Featuring almost 200 ballgowns, evening dresses and masquerade fashions, this exhibit celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Costume Institute and is the 15th organized by Diana Vreeland, special consultant to the Institute.

Covering the last three centuries, the exhibit is organized into gallery settings with paintings, accessories, and music of the period. The waltz and the minuet accompany directoire and empire silhouettes while the turkey trot, the tango and the Charleston usher in the 10's, 20's and 30's. The "loudest" room is the 60's, parading mini-dresses of plastic rectangles and peacock prints to the tune of the Rolling Stones and the Beatles.

A fanfare of elaborate evening coats and capes have been selected, including the salmon pink velvet cape trimmed in fur and embroidered with gold worn by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt at the turn-of-the-century. The famous "kabuki" coat designed by Balenciaga in 1955 and worn by Pauline de Rothschild is on view as well as evening coats designed by Worth, Poiret, Paquin, and Charles James. (82nd & 5th, 879-5500. Until Sept. 6, 1987.)

DESIGNER FOCUS:

ROSEMARIE WOULFE FOR PRET LTD.

A young F.I.T. graduate, this soft-spoken designer creates a very individual collection for Spring/Summer. She describes her collection as "more itemy, no basics" and attributes her individuality to going with her instinct-- "I stick to my guns and try to keep away from what other designers are doing." She has always designed her own prints except for this Spring collection, her third, where she borrows an exclusive print from Celia Birtwell. Her whimsical, turn-of-the-century art, incorporated with Woulfe's military silhouettes produces an "Urban Legion" style of dressing. Strengths in the collection lie in the structured peplums and stylized tunics and tails. A perfect example is the black and ivory printed waistcoat dress in Ya-Kaing silk with tails. Fabrications are all natural: Cotton jacquard, silk dupioni, Ya-Kanig silk, organza, and linen-- while her palette is washed-out in sand, ivory, shrimp, pale yellow, seafoam green and black. (\$60-\$315) (264 W. 35th St., 714-0055)

MATTHEW LOMBARDI FOR MAGGY LONDON SPORT

Heading the first sportswear division for the well-known dress house, Matthew Lombardi designs a classic alternative to "career dressing." A graduate from Pratt, this Brooklyn-born designer has worked at John Kloss, the Kreisler Group, Daniel Hechter, and as personal assistant to Calvin Klein. His collection consists of soft easy-to-wear blouses with long swinging skirts and boxy jackets in matching fabrics. Navy and cream dominate the collection in rayon gabardine and silk crepe de chine. An especially feminine group comes in a silky, rayon jacquard with soft, box-pleated skirts and draped tops in natural, pink and dove grey. A lively print from this group comes in an abstract jacquard with muted pastels on an ivory background, such as a summery tank dress with a drop waist and full skirt. (\$24-\$85) (530 Seventh Ave., 944-7199)

LAWRENCE DESIGNS

With her second Spring/Summer collection, Ann Lawrence presents a dazzling array of evening and special occasion dresses. A "self-taught" designer, Lawrence majored in Art History and Interiors at N.Y.U. and has been designing since 1978. Her interest in fashion grew from her passion for antique lace and textiles. Having first introduced the bubble skirt last Spring (Lawrence attributes it to her junior high graduation dress), she continues that silhouette successfully. An elegant addition however, is the insertion of a handbeaded midriff such as the scoop-neck, white silk bubble dress with a paisley designed inset and a low V back. Fabrics are natural with silk jersey, taffeta, satin, French lace and Italian cotton. Black, white and brights appear in the collection as well as some brilliant tropical florals in asymmetric designs. Evening jackets are planned for next Fall. (\$295-\$1500) (530 Seventh Ave., 302-6100)

Paris Spring '87 is short, sassy and flirty! Baby doll dresses, ingenue necklines, empire waists, transparent cloths, ruffles and lace, bows and bloomers...a message of femininity hammered home, often with a lack of taste and subtlety.

THE MESSAGE: Short, above the knee to 2 inches higher. Empire effects in dresses, skirts, jumpers, trousers. Fitted tops over full and flare. Ruffles, flounces, bubbles, bows, bustles and back interest. Petticoats. Cut out necklines and bared shoulders for tops and dresses. Bustier and bra tops, soft sleeves, stretch fabrics, transparency...organdy, mousseline chiffon. Asymmetrics...dipped in the back hemlines, front to back jacket closings, split skirts. Moving away from the body...trapeze, tent and A-line dresses. Sleeveless suits...sleeveless dresses. Elasticized waists, duster coats. Mix of fabrications....leather & lace, knit & woven, woven & sheer. Prints which function almost as solids. Denim is the number one fabrication in indigo, black, grey, brown, metallic, white, pink and green. Stripes are the number one pattern. Navy is important as the new black.

THE COLORS: Earth tones...copper, ochre, umber, taupe, brown. Neutrals...white, ecru, soft tan, eggshell. Darks...yellowed greens, wine, garnet, plum, aubergine. Pastels...pink, celadon, aqua, blue, peach. Brights...green, red, orange, turquoise, purple, yellow. Black & white. Navy.

ACCESSORIES: Hats reign supreme...garden party, organza turbans, banded berets, straw boaters, bowlers, tiered pillboxes, heart-shaped hats, rag stocking caps, classic sailors, double-brimmed borsalinos, kite hats and gauzy veil held on by headbands.

COLLECTION CAPSULES: VALENTINO...Exquisite clothes for the carriage trade...soft blousons over softly gathered or pleated skirts.

CHANEL...High camp by Karl Lagerfeld...denim in full-skirted coat dresses. Slim bustier dresses.

AZZEDINE ALAIA...Stretch lycra dresses with new seaming that softly accentuates natural curves. Tight, high-waisted pants worn with cropped, flared back jackets.

SONIA RYKIEL...Fun and feminine...Jersey jeans, top stitched like denim. White sweaters with colored bows.

ST. LAURENT...Long single-buttoned jacket suit. Short, nipped at the waist jacket with rows of brass buttons. Toreador pants with matching jacket or bustier top.

JEAN-PAUL GAULTIER...Futurism...Stretch fabrics from translucent rubber to shiny jerseys.

CLAUDE MONTANA...Barrel skirt in linen. Bubble skirt knit dresses. High-waist palazzo pants. Sheer knits.

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